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WELCOME TO COMBATANTS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Report on the meeting in honour of the South Viet Nam NFL Delegation visiting the North
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PRESIDIUM OF THE MEETING HELD IN HANOI IN HONOUR OF THE NFL DELEGATION VISITING NORTH VIET NAM
First row, from left to right: Nghiêm Xuân Yêm, Secretary General of the Democratic Party; Phan Kế Tost, Vice Premier; Nguyễn Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the VNP; Phan Văn Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the VNP; Mr. Phùng Văn Cung, head of the NFL Delegation; Tôn Đức Thắng, Vice President of the DRVN; President and Vice President of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front; Buddhist Superior Thích Thiên Hảo, NFL Delegation member; Phạm Văn Đồng, member of the Political Bureau of the VNP; Prime Minister; General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the VNP; Joseph Marie Hu Hu Ba, NFL Delegation member; Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front.

"To End the War, the Crucial Problem Is that of Total and Unconditional Withdrawal of US and Satellite Troops from South Viet Nam"

DRVN Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister's answer

NGUYEN DUY TRINH,
Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the DRVN, has accorded an interview to George Lippman, West German journalist, Editor-in-Chief of the Bonner Korrespondenz, who recently visited the DRVN as member of a delegation of Communist leaders of the German Federal Republic. We publish below some of the questions and answers:

Question 1:

How do you evaluate the chances of positive results of the four-party Paris Conference on Viet Nam?

What are the conditions for re-establishing peace in Viet Nam?

Question 2:

What has motivated, in your opinion, the U.S. representative's proposal to discuss the "return of the demilitarized zone" and "concrete military questions"?

Answers to questions 1 and 2:

The purpose of the quadrilateral Paris Conference on Viet Nam is to seek a political settlement of the Viet Nam question, particularly the war and restore peace.

Who has sabotaged peace? Who has unleashed the war? It is the U.S. imperialists. They have sent from the other side of the Pacific over 500,000 military experts and troops to invade Viet Nam. They have installed a corrupt and bellicose puppet administration as a tool to maintain their neo-colonial regime in South Viet Nam.

To put an end to the war and restore peace, the U.S. imperialists' proposal must give up definitely all encroachments on the sovereignty, and threats to the security of the DRVN, withdraw immediately all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam; let the internal affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of

the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation without foreign interference. The reunification of Viet Nam must be carried out by the Vietnamese people in both zones, free from outside intervention.

That is the essence of the four points of the Government of the DRVN, and the five points of the South Viet Nam National Front.

That is the basis of a complete settlement guaranteeing the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, meeting the interests of the American people and safeguarding the interests of the U.S. as well as the interests of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

The U.S. representative at the quadrilateral Paris Conference has not yet had the discussion of such a solution. He has been craftily asking to discuss first of all the "restoration of the demilitarized zone" with a view to misleading public opinion on the origin of the war and on crucial problems to solve if the war is to be ended.

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PLAF OFFENSIVES UNABATED ACROSS SOUTH VIET NAM AFTER A FORTNIGHT

* **US 25th Infantry Division's Dong Du Base Wiped Out: 1,270 GIs Killed Or Wounded, 179 Vehicles and 39 Giant Helicopters and Planes Destroyed.**

* **Second PLAF Double Win North-west of Saigon at Tra Cao, in 48 Hours, 950 GI Casualties**

* **10,000 Tons of Munitions and 6 US Aircraft Blasted Near Qui Nhon.**

On March 4, the People's Air Force knocked out a pilotless reconnaissance plane in Hanoi airspace, bringing the total US air losses over the DRVN since August 5, 1964 to

3,267

U.S. THREATS WON'T SHAKE OUR WILL TO FIGHT AND TO WIN

In spite of the most stringent prevarication measures taken by the U.S. command in Saigon, on the 7th day of the Lunar New Year (Feb. 22, 1969) a powerful and powerful protest was mounted which spelled out the immense capabilities of the people's patriotic war waged by our Southern compatriots.

They came as no surprise since these devastating blows which are still raining, were but the continuation of the actions staged in the course of the last few months in various theatres of operations throughout South Viet Nam. American statistics themselves disclosed that U.S. casualty figures in January 1969 surpass by far those of preceding months. The latest figures of U.S. personnel compare with October 1968.

In face of the South Vietnamese patriots' action, Washington rulers' reaction only betrays their utter confusion.

Concurring that a "last understanding" between the DRVN and the USA in connection with L.B. Johnson's decision to cease all bombardments of North Viet Nam was violated, the imperialists even in threats to resume the war against the North. As these statements stirred up panic in the United States, and the world over, the State Department spokesman Carl Harriet finally had to soft-pedal and said he could not affirm whether there was any violation of the last understanding." (UNIS, Feb. 28.)

This entirely legitimate position has received the

PUPPETS HECKLED BY THE PRESS

At a puppet press conference on Feb. 27 that at a press conference by Carl Harriet, newsmen asked him for more information. "The war must end," he was reminded by Murray Mander, the only official text that can be referred to is the following passage: "We are of course having productive talks in an atmosphere where the cities are being shelled and where the administration is being ousted." For any person having an average intelligence, it is clear that these words were but a unilateral statement which cannot be taken as any bilateral agreement whatsoever.

The Nov. 2, 1968 statement of the DRVN Foreign Ministry unambiguously pointed out that the U.S. cessation of bombardments against the whole territory of the DRVN was unconditional, dismissing the current discussions of the Vietnamese and the State Department, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry on Feb. 26, 1969 again stressed, "The United States is acting as though an agreement had been reached between

the DRVN and itself regarding the cessation of the U.S. bombardments of North Viet Nam. In fact, it was the United States which undertook to unconditionally stop the bombardments on the entire territory of the DRVN, and it has agreed with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to hold a quadrilateral conference with a view to seeking a political solution to the Viet Nam problem."

At his March 4, 1969 press conference, U.S. President Richard Nixon however retained the myth of an "understanding" and went to the length of threatening again the Vietnamese people: "We will not tolerate a continuation of a violation of an understanding . . . An appropriate response to these attacks will be made if they continue."

Mr. Nixon should and once again this statement warning served him by the NFL: "The threats of the U.S. and its valets will not shake the iron-like determination of the 14 million South Vietnamese to step up their sacrifices for the U.S. aggression for those to cease their aggressive war against our people, to accept the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and to let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs in accordance with the NFL Political Programme.

This entirely legitimate position has received the

PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS Seventh Plenary Session

THE Paris Conference on Viet Nam held its 7th plenary session on March 6, 1969.

Taking the floor first, Mr. Tran Van Kiem, head of the NFL delegation, pointed out that the U.S. representative at this Conference had only been trying to shirk with roundabout and impudent demands of the South Viet Nam people. The Nixon administration, he said, while talking and acting differently, had not stopped the aggressive war against South Viet Nam, accumulating innumerable crimes against its people. The U.S. representative cited as example the razing by air bombing of the Catholic village of Tam Hop with a 2000 population on Feb. 23, 1969, the massacre by U.S. "air cavalry" of 24 Catholics at My Thanh village, Long An province on the night of Feb. 24, 1969.

He dismissed the "protests" by the U.S.-puppets in connection with the PLAF attacks throughout South Viet Nam and reassured the right to self-defence of the South Vietnamese people. The U.S. representative, he said, was determined to punish the U.S. aggressors and their valets at any time and in any place so long as they continue their aggressive war.

The DRVN envoy disposed of U.S. President Nixon's charges of "violation" of an "understanding" between the DRVN and the USA on the cessation of bombing against

(Continued page 7)

Anecdotes Around Paris Conference

threatened to "crush" and the 14,000 South Vietnamese people herded in the Bao Lam. An unusual included in such destructive forces?"

Driven into a corner, the puppet spokesman had to dodge clumsily, "I request you not to go too far."

An American correspondent then brought him back to the attack, clearing him regarding some statements by the puppet delegation on the "legality" and "constitutionalism" of their government, read and accepted by Senator Fulbright flying the rigged elections in Saigon and asked the Saigon representatives what he thought of it.

"I shall comment only on the views of government circles", the spokesman said they considered that any appropriate solution to the Viet Nam problem should be based on the fundamental clauses of the Geneva Agreements. Does the Saigon Administration share the same view?"

"We accept these fundamental clauses and we have executed them", the spokesman answered after a few minutes' reflection.

"According to you, is the clause on the holding of general elections in the region of the fundamental clauses?" "This again triggered a stir among the attendance.

At the same meeting with the newsmen, the Saigon spokesman, also exerted himself to assert that statement of Mr. Xuan Thuy was unconditionally, dismissing the most disastrous of the whole audience.

The American correspondent then put another question, "You said that destructive forces should be expelled from South Viet Nam. Then, are the organizations Nguyen Van Thieu has

Administration can forget his position as a servant to the Americans and judge in such boastful statements which usually are to be found only in the mouths of those deprived of all sense of humanity. The war is just on the other leg: it is in the U.S. which requested us to authorize a delegation from Saigon to take part in the Geneva Conference after consultation with the NFL.

The puppet, pinned down hastily wound up the press conference to spare himself a difficult answer.

This repartee immediately produced its intended effects by cutting the puppet envoy's cable.

A few hours later, however, at his press Conference the Saigon spokesman continued his habitual distortions of facts. Commenting on the PLAF attacks against U.S.-puppet positions in South Viet Nam, he affirmed, "The Communists attacked the civilians".

But at the U.S. Delegation's own press conference in the same room in Segur Street, the American spokesman admitted that "the bulk of Viet Cong targets was military bases".

"A true slip in the puppet's face" said a correspondent from a Western news agency.

Viet Nam COURIER

Welcome to Combatants from the Frontline

Historic words said by President Ho Chi Minh more than 20 years ago:

"South Viet Nam is blood of Viet Nam's blood, flesh of Viet Nam's flesh. Rivers may dry up and mountains wear out, but that truth decided will never change."

After expressing the gratitude of the Vietnamese people and combatants towards President Ho Chi Minh, beloved leader of the entire Vietnamese nation, and towards the 17 million Southern kith-and-kin, he gave the following appraisal of the situation:

"The situation in South Viet Nam is developing in favour of the South Viet Nam people. The South Viet Nam NFL is winning and holds the military initiative. It commands unqualified political and moral superiority over the enemy."

"The successes of strategic importance of the South Vietnamese people and the people throughout Viet Nam at the same time spell out the failure of strategic significance of the enemy. The fact that the U.S. imperialists had to unconditionally stop the bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN is a big setback for them."

Expressing the determination of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam to fight until final victory, Dr. Phung Van Cung concluded his speech with this:

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People's Air Force Hero Nguyen Van Bay and PLAF Hero Huynh Thuc Ba



Representatives of Hanoi people welcoming the NFL delegation

"Restoration of Peace Would Mean End of Thieu-Ky-Huong Clique's Career"

(Statement by South Viet Nam Alliance)

place with the participation of students, workers, intellectuals, members of the national bourgeoisie and many civil servants and officers of the South Viet Nam NFL, winning and holds the military initiative. It commands unqualified political and moral superiority over the enemy.

"The successes of strategic importance of the South Vietnamese people and the people throughout Viet Nam at the same time spell out the failure of strategic significance of the enemy. The fact that the U.S. imperialists had to unconditionally stop the bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN is a big setback for them."

Expressing the determination of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam to fight until final victory, Dr. Phung Van Cung concluded his speech with this:

The statement stressed that the U.S.-imperialists, Thieu-Ky-Huong clique was identifying itself with the U.S. war of aggression in order to stay in power and get rich at the cost of the people's blood. No sooner was afraid of peace since the restoration of peace would mean the end of its career. The more the movement against U.S.-aggression and for peace grows, the more frantic the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration's

block-down upon people becomes.

The statement pointed out that the people were dead set against the obdurate and war-like traitors, as they were aware that there was no other way than to carry on the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the traitors clique, end the war and their own sufferings and bring about the independence to the nation.

"The Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is ready to join hands with all patriotic organizations and personalities, no matter what their political or religious beliefs may be, including the civil servants and puppet officers who are against the aggressors and for peace, the more frantic the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration's

PARTICIPATION OF NORTH VIET NAM WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Participation of women in State affairs:

National Assembly Third Legislature: 14.5 per cent. Vice-Chairmen of Standing Committees: 17.42 per cent. — Village People's Committees: 32.74 per cent. — Chairman of Village Administrative Committees: 9.92. — Vice-Chairmen of Provincial People's Committees: 4. — Provincial People's Committees: 13 per cent. — Vice-Chairmen of provincial administrative Committees: 7.98. — District People's Committees: 45.79 per cent. — District Administrative Committees: 26.82 per cent. — Chairman of District Administrative Committees: 20

Light Industry: 60.62 per cent

Trade: 49.5 per cent Communications and Transport: 20 per cent Education: 32.6 per cent Public Health: 49 per cent

Participation of women in agricultural management

— Chairmen of Managerial Committees: 1.42. — Vice-chairmen of Managerial Committees: 7.98. — Heads of production units: 18.049. — Members of Managerial Committees: 32.868 (figures available in only 20 provinces and city outskirts).

— Vice-Chairmen of District Administrative Committees: 282. — Village People's Committees: 17.42 per cent. — Vice-Chairmen of Provincial People's Committees: 13 per cent. — Vice-Chairmen of provincial administrative Committees: 7.98. — Chairman of Village Administrative Committees: 4.488. — Vice-Chairmen of Provincial People's Committees: 1. — Provincial People's Committees: 13 per cent. — Vice-Chairmen of provincial administrative Committees: 7.98. — Chairman of Village Administrative Committees: 4.488.

— Vice-Chairmen of District People's Committees: 45.79 per cent. — District Administrative Committees: 26.82 per cent. — Chairman of District Administrative Committees: 20

— Women account for 35 per cent of the total number of the cadres, workers and State employees in various public service.

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD



LAOTIAN PATRIOTS INFECT HEAVY LOSSES ON ENEMY AT NAKHANG

THE Laotian patriotic forces, under command of the U.S.-fostered bandits' strategic base at Nakhang, about 270 miles northeast of Vientiane, *Khammou Phathet* Laot reported.

Previously, reports said most troops of the garrisoning battalion were killed or wounded and 30 others captured. The commander of the bandit forces in Sam Neua province, Khampham, was reported killed. Two other military personnel were among the casualties.

Since the fall of Pathi in the last dry season, the U.S.-fostered bandits in Laos

had turned Nakhang, once a liberated area of the patriotic forces, into a major springboard for sabotage activities against the Vietnamese, whether they are of the North or of the NFL. For the same reason that they are in their own country - Viet Nam. In invoking the "right to legitimate defence, confirmed by international law and the U.S. Charter" (also, to justify US military presence in South Viet Nam), has Mr. Cabot Lodge not made a farce?

As for the Saigon "ally", Mr. Pham Dang Lam, he with his Washington counter-part in putting forward ludicrous proposals, Mr. Lam asks for too much and gives nothing in return: "Let North Viet Nam get

an end to the armed aggression, let it restore the status of the demilitarized zone, let it cease intervening and bombing daily hundreds, even thousands of tons of bombs with giant B-52 bombers destined for nuclear warfare on an international affair of the world, let it remove all its armed forces", North Viet Nam and that of the "victim of aggression", that is, Saigon and its allies, including the U.S. and its satellites, hundreds, even thousands of tons of bombs with giant B-52 bombers destined for nuclear warfare on an international affair of the world, let it remove all its armed forces", let it accept the Geneva Agreements, let it accept an effective international control, let it...".

"Quesada" as outlined in his demand! One has not finished having fun with him, because he has reaffirmed that his eyes, the Paris conference is of "two sides", that of the "aggressor" (North Viet Nam) and that of the "victim" of aggression", that is, Saigon and its allies, including the U.S. and its satellites, hundreds, even thousands of tons of bombs with giant B-52 bombers destined for nuclear warfare on an international affair of the world, let it remove all its armed forces", North Viet Nam and that of the "victim of aggression", that is, Saigon and its allies, including the U.S. and its satellites, hundreds, even thousands of tons of bombs with giant B-52 bombers destined for nuclear warfare on an international affair of the world, let it remove all its armed forces", let it accept the Geneva Agreements, let it accept an effective international control, let it...".

Lastly, if the Cabot Lodge tandem persists in these pernicious proposals, it is still a long way before a negotiated settlement can be reached.

For his part, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, sees only one way for the Paris negotiations to end: a full and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam to let the Vietnamese people exercise their right to self-determination. A number of sensible chiefs of State share the Prince's view.

Nixon's European Tour

WEST EUROPE STRONGLY OPPOSES Nixon and U.S. aggression against Viet Nam

citists and supporting the resistance war of the Vietnamese against the Americans. On the night of February 24, 1969, over 1,000 demonstrators gathered outside the Pan American Hotel, where Nixon was to stay. They threw milk bottles at Nixon's motorcade and obstructed its progress with dust bins.

In West Berlin two days before Nixon's visit, a massive protest meeting was held at the Technical College. On February 26, 1969, when he arrived, hundreds of people turned out in the streets to protest against the U.S. Embassy. While Nixon and shouted anti-U.S. slogans and anti-war protest, demonstrators drove into the centre of the city. Then they marched to

the U.S. Information Service building and splashed with dirt its front walls in protest against the U.S. aggressor was in Viet Nam.

In Italy, on the night of February 25, 1969, over 4,000 students launched the wave of protest action with a huge march through the shopping quarter of Rome, chanting: "Nixon, you will be burnt to death!"

On February 27, 1969 immediately after Nixon had got to Rome a protest meeting was called. The crowd, formed with the slogan "Nixon out", set fire to two cars near the U.S. Embassy. While Nixon was having a talk with Italian President Saragat in the Quirinal,

in France, on February 26, 1969 a few hours before Nixon arrived in Paris the French people opened up assaults against the U.S. Hilton Hotel, the Pan American Airways, and the U.S. Tourist Bureau in the Capital, breaking many windows with bricks and stones.

On the evening of February 26, 1969, many delegations of the Vietnamese people's front organisations marched in Paris to protest against Nixon's visit to France. The French people opened up assaults against the U.S. Hilton Hotel, the Pan American Airways, and the U.S. Tourist Bureau in the Capital, breaking many windows with bricks and stones.

On the night of February 26, 1969, many delegations of the Vietnamese people's front organisations marched in Paris to protest against Nixon's visit to the French Foreign Ministry, carrying a forest of signs and slogans: "Down with Nixon", "Victory belongs to Viet Nam", "End the aggressive war against Viet Nam". South Viet Nam NFL flags were paraded through the Quartier Latin in Paris.



Chilean youth in Santiago demonstrate against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam

On the night of February 26, 1969, more than 1,000 French students marched, in protest against Nixon's visit to the French Foreign Ministry, carrying a forest of signs and slogans: "Down with Nixon", "Victory belongs to Viet Nam", "End the aggressive war against Viet Nam". South Viet Nam NFL flags were paraded through the Quartier Latin in Paris.

VIET NAM COURIER

Total and Unconditional Withdrawal of U.S. and Satellite Troops from South Viet Nam.

(Continued from page 1)

It is necessary to make this clear: U.S. and satellite troops have been sent by air and by sea from U.S. territory and the U.S. military bases in Asia to the Pacific. The aggression was against Viet Nam: so to end the war, the crucial problem is that of total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

Politically, the puppet administration and army - mainstay of the U.S. aggressor army - is on the way to collapse and disintegration.

The aggressors and traitors have become completely isolated in the sea of people's war in the South. Meanwhile, the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. This represents a great gain for the Vietnamese people in both zones.

It is at the same time one for all fraternal and friendly peoples throughout the world, including the people of the German Federal Republic.

However, the U.S. imperialists have not yet given up their aggressive designs. While they are eluding the discussion of all-round settlement of the Viet Nam issue, the U.S. imperialists, in South Viet Nam, they are feverishly intensifying the war and scheming to prolong their military occupation, consolidate the puppet administration and beef up the puppet army in the hope of holding the South and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people are determined to fulfil the U.S. imperialists' delegation. The delegation of the DRVN Government and that of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation are determined to seek in earnest a settlement, the position of a peace cabinet with a view to a just peace with the NFL. Since the opening of the four-party conference on Viet Nam, there has been an increasing realization among the world public opinion that the purpose of the DRVN and the NFL is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, qualified to settle all problems concerning South Viet Nam. These strides forwards of the South Vietnamese people in their

struggle, the Vietnamese land grew even more magnificent. Right at present streams of fresh water are flowing from the plains, from the fields of the liberated areas, bringing water springing from the depth of the land to heal the wounds caused by American bombs and shells to the fields, so that they may grow green again with rice and our people's heroic resistance was carried through to a victorious end.

(1) Words from a song of the Liberation fighters.

A Former Saigon...

(Continued from page 5)

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Paris Conference on Viet Nam...

(Continued from page 2)

North Viet Nam. He also pool-punched Mr. Nixon's threats to the Vietnamese people. Emphasizing that the aggressor, i.e. the United States, was the aggressor, he warned that the Vietnamese people would always be on their guard and stand by to meet out due punishment to any reckless move by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

After expounding again in detail the Vietnamese people's righteous position as expressed in the DRVN's front posts and NFL's five points, Mr. Nguyn Thuy declared that if the U.S. refused to settle the key problem, that is, the unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, as insisted on a "mutual withdrawal of

troops", that would only

show its intention to continue the aggression, i.e. the United States, was the aggressor, i.e. the Vietnamese people, and to go ahead with its aggression against Viet Nam.

After a break, US representative Cabot Lodge took the floor and repeated his baseless slanders against the DRVN, particularly about the current general attack in Saigon and in South Viet Nam. He also repeated the accusations of the DRVN's "secret understandings" between the DRVN and the USA and the threats launched by Nixon at his March 4 press conference. He elbowed about the neces-

sity of the "restoration of the DMZ", and "mutual withdrawal of foreign armed forces", etc...

The US representative was supported by the head of the Saigon administration's delegation, who only parroted his master's false charges.

These US and puppet allegations were roundly rebuked by the representative of the DRVN. Said the latter in conclusion:

"The Vietnamese people

are deeply attached to

but this peace must go hand

in hand with independence

and freedom. They are resolved to fight until genuine independence, peace and freedom is recovered".

No airfield can avoid punishment from the PLAF

Welcome to Combatants from the Frontline

(Continued from page 3)

Amidst a thunderous ovation, Dr. Tran Day Hung handed on behalf of the Hanoi people, to the NFL delegation, a resolution adopted with these words, "Of the two, both North and South Viet Nam are determined to defeat the U.S. aggressors."

Dr. Phung Van Cung presented the Hanoi people and armed forces with an American flag, a gift accepted by the Saigon delegation for the attack on May 13, 1972, against U.S. troops on the Y shaped bridge in Saigon, and a set of photos.

Military Operations

NEWS of PLAF attacks against enemy military bases, airfields, services and installations in several provinces in the north Feb. 21 flare-up keeps flashing in and helps paint a more complete picture of this memorable post-Tet period. According to reports released by *Giai Phong* Press Agency, the patriots made offensives in *Quang Ninh* and *Quang Binh* provinces and *Quang Tri* administrative division of South Viet Nam. Several hundred most important enemy military targets were hit. The U.S.-puppet hide-outs in 30 cities and provincial capitals including Da Nang, Saigon and Vung Tau suffered damage and losses, after very serious, during the last week of February. Huge logistic bases, such as Cam Ranh, Long Binh, Chu Be, Pleiku and Qui Nhon were in a blaze for hours, and hundreds of thousands of tons of munitions, armament and military equipment destroyed. Considerable damage was also done to huge air bases including Da Nang, Bien Hoa, Bi Loi, Thuy (Me-kong Delta) Go Quanh (near Qui Nhon), and Chu Lai.

In addition, many enemy H.Q.s were completely or partly devastated, such as the headquarters of the puppet *Marine Corps* and *Police* in Saigon that of the U.S. *Infantry* in Long Binh; those of at least 200 depots, those of at least 20 divisions and 5 brigades of the U.S. satellite army; puppet *armored, mechanized, regimental and battalion C.P.s*. It is safe to say that the PLAF splendidly timed their blows and hit very hard home at the softest points of the enemy war machine, causing him very heavy losses in men, material and technical war.

Today, two weeks after the opening of these well-coordinated offensives, the PLAF, according to Western news agencies themselves, have shown no sign they are "out of breath" as repeatedly claimed by the top brasshairs in Washington or in Saigon.

Following are the most remarkable developments of the past week reported by GIAI:

Destruction of Dong Du Base.

THIS base of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, nickname "Tropic Lightning," situated near Go-Chi, yakim Northwest of Saigon came under a ground assault of the patriots at 2 a.m. Feb. 26, following a violent artillery barrage which hammered the defenders completely.

The PLAF killed 650 GI's, wounded 420 others, destroyed 179 vehicles including 39 tanks and armored personnel carriers, and shot down or destroyed on the ground 39 aircraft mostly giant helicopters. They also reduced to rubble 16 blockhouses, 20 casemates, and burnt 4 arms depots including one containing 3000 mortars and one containing 100 artillery shells as well as a fuel dump and 12 barrack buildings. Fire raged on until 4 p.m. next day.

Another double wham at Tra Co.

THIS position held by a 1200 battalion and situated in the Saigon defense perimeter, 55 km to the North West, was taken on the night of Feb. 22 as reported in our last issue: 900 GI's were killed or wounded. Another 400 unit was sent in to re-occupy the position the PLAF had abandoned after their victory. On the night of Feb. 21, the latter came back in strength and, after less than 2 hours of fighting, destroyed this new garrison, and caused another 450 GI casualties. The survivors hurriedly fled from Tra Co.

This was the second "double win" in the area North West of Saigon by the PLAF in this period. The next night, Feb. 23, the patriots sent in to Tra Co, almost at the same time as that of Tra Cau: a US battalions destroyed with about 1,000 GI's killed or wounded.

At about 10 km further to the Northeast of Tra Cau, near Trang Bang, the regional troops of the PLAF harassed the enemy without let or hindrance between Feb. 23 and March 2 and sent many groups out of action, shot down 11 planes and helicopters, destroyed 38 vehicles and sank or burnt 4 vessels.

PLA further reported that in 4 other attacks on enemy river flotillas in this sector of Tay Ninh province, the PLAF sent to the bottom or set fire to 28 vessels and killed or wounded 90 U.S. puppets between Feb. 22 and Feb. 28.

Near Qui Nhon, 3 logistic bases destroyed.

On the Western edge of Qui Nhon city (425 km Northeast of Saigon) on the night of Feb. 22, the patriots attacked 3 U.S. logistic bases. Thirteen storage depots were burnt, 10,000 tons of munitions were blasted, destroying 6 planes and helicopters. The explosions

rocked buildings in Qui Nhon for 12 hours on end.

Further South, the attack on the night of Feb. 22 against the rear base of Battalion 3, 566th Regiment, U.S. 101st Airborne Division, in Phan Thiet, 153 km East of Saigon (see our previous issue) was also successful and 2 artillery companies wiped out (900 GI's killed or wounded) and 13 aircraft parked in that city's airfield, as well as a large number of vehicles destroyed. Enemy installations blazed for 8 hours.

Initial round-up

PLAF has given an initial round-up of the 1st week of the post-Tet attacks in some sectors as follows:

— Between Feb. 23 and Feb. 28, in the provinces of Central Trung Bo (stretching from Da Nang to Cam Ranh) the PLAF struck at 11 cities and provincial capitals, 30 districts, towns and sub-sector HQ's, 6 fields and 13 logistic quarters. They inflicted on the enemy 7,500 casualties including 3,000 GI's and South Korean mercenaries, destroyed or shot down 50 planes and helicopters, wrecked 150 vehicles, 40 cannons, sank or damaged 6 vessels, and burnt 15 million litres of petrol. They also took tens of tons of armaments and military equipment. Tens of thousands of people rose up to punish local tyrants and dispense some 100 concentration camps.

— In Central Nam Bo (provinces on the banks of the Mekong river branches) between Feb. 23 and Feb. 28, the PLAF struck at 23 cities, airfields and dozens of district towns or sub-sector HQ's and put more than 3,000 adverse troops out of action.



The fuel depot at Dong Tam airfield (Binh Due, My Tho province) set afire by PLAF on the night of February 22, 1969

REVOLUTIONARY POWER SET UP IN PHU YEN

RECENTLY the NFL committee of Phu Yen province convened a political congress of representatives of district and village people's Revolutionary Committees to elect the provincial people's Revolutionary Committee. Giai Phong press agency reported.

In his political report to the congress, the Chairman of the provincial NFL committee reviewed the great accomplishments and the unprecedented growth of the Phu Yen armed forces and people over the past 14 years, especially the big leap forward of the political and armed struggle of the

local armed forces and people since last year's Tet general attacks and uprisings. The liberated areas have been built and consolidated and the popular movement has been developing vigorously and as a result People's Councils and People's Revolutionary Committees have been set up in a short time in 5 districts and many villages.

The newly-elected Committee declared liquidation of the puppet administration in the province and called on the local people to defend revolutionary power at all costs and implement all the policies laid down by it.

SAIGON PUPPET REGIME BANS PEACE MUSIC

THE Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration has just issued an order banning the popularization and performance of Composer Trinh Cong Son's music on the ground of its "anti-war" character and its "peace" theme which make it "unsuitable to the present political situation", the Saigon correspondent of *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. Order was also given to seize all Trinh Cong Son's compositions now being popularized under all forms.

Trinh Cong Son is author of about one hundred songs

which vividly depict his country and people in the U.S. imperialists current war of aggression. Of late, he has published a set of 15 pieces of music voicing the people's aspiration for peace which has prompted the Saigon triumvirate's anti democratic decision.

This move which came after the closing down of 15 newspapers has stirred up a hornets' nest among the academic circles, newsmen, youth, students and other sections of the Saigon people, and among public servants, puppet soldiers and policemen

as well. Many people openly commented: "The Thieu-Ky-Huong clique is so much afraid of peace that it even tries to pieces paper peace doves and forbids peace songs."

"I'll go on with my work" composer Trinh Cong Son said, challenging the measure. Many artists, intellectuals, students and youth have urged the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration to ban the Trinh Cong Son's "peace" songs and demanded freedom of the press, freedom of opinion and freedom of artistic creation and performance.